

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE

FOCUS

2 Chron. 7:13-14, 17-18

2 Chron. 7:13 **If I shut up heaven** that there be no rain, or **if I command the locusts** to devour the land, or **if I send pestilence** among my people;

14 **If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ...

17 And as for thee, **if** thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

18 **Then** will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

This weekend represents the 244th celebration of our nation's *Declaration of Independence*. As we consider the condition of our nation, as believers, we must look at it from a spiritual perspective.

Background

The text used this morning, 2 Chron. 7:13-14, 17-18, reflects Israel's national relationship with God. There was a conditional covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, which was an "if...then" relationship depending upon obedience/disobedience of Israel. "If" Israel stayed in faithful fellowship with God, "then" blessings were received from God. "If" Israel disobeyed God, "then" cursings were received from God. The Mosaic Covenant can be found in Exodus 19-24 and Deuteronomy 5:6-22, and is also referred to as "the Law." After the battle at Ai, Joshua built an altar:

Josh. 8:34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, **the blessings and cursings**, according to all that is written in **the book of the law**.

THE CONDITION

1. Retribution –

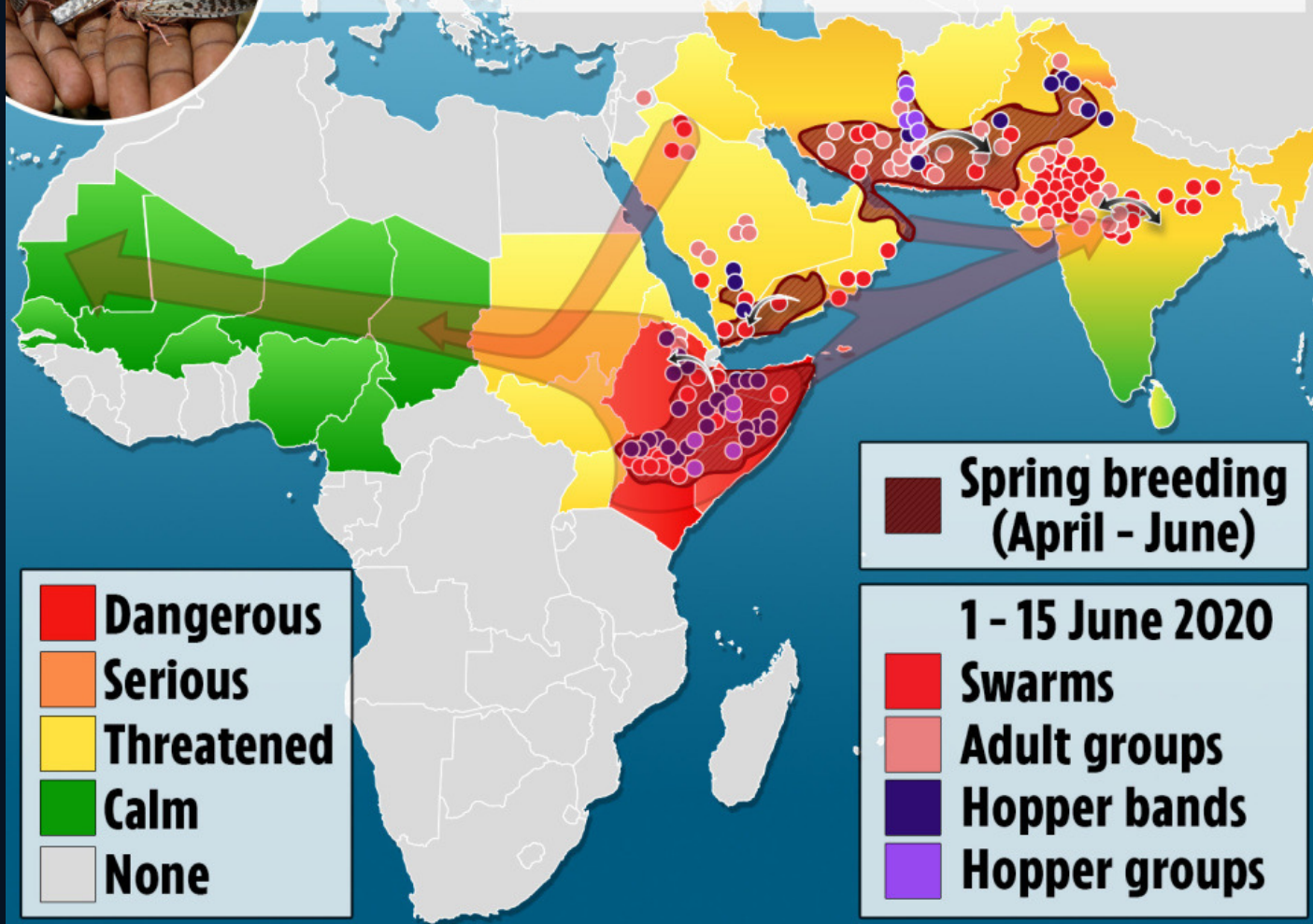
- Judgment, or cursing, because of sin, will bring devastation – economically and physically

13 **If I shut up heaven** that there be no rain, or **if I command the locusts** to devour the land, or **if I send pestilence** among my people;

LOCUST SWARM FORECAST



Trillions of the locusts have been destroying crops from Kenya through to Ethiopia, Yemen and even as far as parts of northern India



2. Repentance –

14 **if** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- recognize the broken relationship – “my people”
- realize the severity of sin – “humble themselves”
- return to God – “pray”
- reach out to God – “seek my face”
- repent – “turn from their wicked ways;”

3. Restoration –

- to fellowship – “then will I hear from heaven”
- of forgiveness – “will forgive their sin”
- to fruitfulness – “and will heal their land.”

Transition

By application, America does NOT have a national covenant with God, however, there are promises to nations regarding general relationships. America, nationally, is only as strong as its people are individually strong in a spiritual relationship with God.

Psa. 33:12 **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD**; *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Prov. 14:34 **Righteousness exalteth a nation**: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

This morning, we will consider our focus upon the United States, as a nation:

I. THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

A. The Founders

- In 1607, Jamestown was founded in Virginia, emphasized the Creator in their constitution.
- In 1620, the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. The *Mayflower Compact* written on the ship November 21, 1620, prior to landing:

In the name of God, Amen. *We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign lord King James, **by the grace of God**, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc.*

Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, *and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant, and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid;*

[https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mayflower-](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mayflower-Compact#:~:text=Mayflower%20Compact%2C%20document%20signed%20on%20the%20English%20ship,th)

[Compact#:~:text=Mayflower%20Compact%2C%20document%20signed%20on%20the%20English%20ship,th](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mayflower-Compact#:~:text=Mayflower%20Compact%2C%20document%20signed%20on%20the%20English%20ship,th)
[at%20is%20now%20the%20United%20States%20of%20America](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mayflower-Compact#:~:text=Mayflower%20Compact%2C%20document%20signed%20on%20the%20English%20ship,th)

- All the constitutions of the original colonies in America had reference to, and reverence for, the Creator and for Christian values.

The Declaration of Independence, the most famous document produced by the Continental Congress during the War for Independence, proclaims: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that **all men are created equal**; that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

<https://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/did-america-have-christian-founding>

B. The Foundation

Psa. 11:3 **If the foundations be destroyed**, what can the righteous do?

In 1892, United States Supreme Court Justice David Brewer, in the case on *Church of the Holy Trinity vs. United States* (143 U.S. 457), explained what a Christian Nation was as defined by the Highest Court at that time.

Foundations: In ‘the opinion of the court,’ **Brewer began by showing that America was founded to be a Christian Nation.** In part he offered these facts: “...The commission of Christopher Columbus... (where) Ferdinand and Isabella, by the grace of God, King and Queen of Castile” sent him “by God’s assistance.” And then that “The first colonial grant, made to Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584, was from ‘Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, Queen, defender of the faith,’ etc., and the grant authorizing him to enact statutes of the government of the proposed colony provided that ‘they be not against the true Christian faith now professed in the Church of England.’ **The first charter of Virginia, granted by King James I in 1606... ‘We... by the Providence of Almighty God... in propagating of Christian Religion to such people, as yet live in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God...’ The Mayflower, 1620... ‘undertaken for the Glory of God, and the Advancement of the Christian Faith... plant the first Colony in the northern parts of Virginia...’**

<https://thetruthsource.org/christianity-in-constitutions/>

Public schools were first contrived by the Puritans in Massachusetts in 1647 as it took shape under the Old Deluder Satan Act. **The very purpose of the 1647 act was to ensure children would be able to read Scripture.** It states, in part: “It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, as in former times by keeping them in an unknown tongue, so in these latter times by persuading from the use of tongues, so that at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded and corrupted with false glosses of saint-seeming deceivers; and to the end that learning may not be buried in the grave of our forefathers, in church and commonwealth, **the Lord assisting our endeavors.** It is therefore ordered that every township in this jurisdiction **after the Lord hath increased them** to fifty households shall forthwith appoint one within their town to teach all such children as shall resort to him to write and read. . . .”

<https://www.dayspringchristian.com/blog/christian-children-in-public-schools/>

Webster stated: “**In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed. . . . No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.**”

“Education is useless without the Bible.”

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Quotes>

II. THE FAILINGS OF AMERICA

Deut. 32:18 Of the Rock *that* begat thee **thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.**

Isa. 17:10 **Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation,** and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

Jer. 13:25 This *is* thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; **because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.**

Hos. 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: **seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**

(Wednesday evening I covered our doctrinal position on *ABORTION* – over 3,000 babies are murdered each day in America = a horrible travesty of shedding innocent blood!)

In Education

An Historical Case For Christian Influence In American Education

By Ron Edwards, Columnist, The Edwards Notebook September 26th, 2019

<https://americaoutloud.com/an-historical-case-for-christian-influence-in-american-education/>

In its forward, McGuffey wrote:

“The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our prevalent notions of the character of God, the great moral governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions.” The Ten Commandments are the teachings of Jesus are not only basic but plenary.”

Modern Education

When the Court Took on Prayer and the Bible in Public Schools

By Michael D. Waggoner | June 25, 2012

*The Bible, the School, and the Constitution: The Clash That Shaped
Modern Church-State Doctrine*

By Steven K. Green

Oxford University Press, 2012

On **June 25, 1962**, the United States Supreme Court decided in ***Engel v. Vitale*** that a **prayer** approved by the New York Board of Regents for use in schools violated the First Amendment by constituting an establishment of religion. The following year, in ***Abington School District v. Schempp***, the Court disallowed Bible readings in public schools for similar reasons. **Both decisions ultimately changed the face of American civil society, and in turn, helped usher in the last half-century of the culture wars.**

<https://religionandpolitics.org/2012/06/25/when-the-court-took-on-prayer-the-bible-and-public-schools/>

The Common Core scheme to enlist state governments in enforcing national education standards and curricula has been lavishly funded with over \$2 billion in grants from Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates.

What is it about Common Core that has elicited such a widespread, broad-spectrum revolt? For many of the teachers, it is the mandated cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all straitjacket Common Core imposes. For many parents, it is the subversive, anti-Christian, hypersexualized, pro-homosexual emphasis of the National Sexuality Education Standards, which were developed by the radical Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); the pornography-promoting Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS); the abortion behemoth Planned Parenthood; and the National Education Association — among others.

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/books/item/20681-education-malpractice>

- The riots and demolishing of statues are indicative of more than simple chaos.

45 COMMUNIST GOALS TO TAKE OVER AMERICA (1963)

On Jan. 10, 1963, Congressman Albert S. Herlong Jr. of Florida read a list of 45 Communist goals into the Congressional Record. The list was derived from researcher Cleon Skousen's book "The Naked Communist." These principles are well worth revisiting today in order to gain insights into the thinking and strategies of much of our so-called liberal elite:

Congressional Record—Appendix, pp. A34-A35 January 10, 1963

Current Communist Goals

17. Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers' associations. Put the party line in textbooks.

20. Infiltrate the press. Get control of book-review assignments, editorial writing, policymaking positions.

21. Gain control of key positions in radio, TV, and motion pictures.

22. Continue discrediting American culture by degrading all forms of artistic expression. An American Communist cell was told to “eliminate all good sculpture from parks and buildings, substitute shapeless, awkward and meaningless forms.”

25. Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

26. Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as “normal, natural, healthy.”

27. Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with “social” religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a “religious crutch.”

28. Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of “separation of church and state.”

29. Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a worldwide basis.

30. Discredit the American Founding Fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the “common man.”

31. Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history on the ground that it was only a minor part of the “big picture.” Give more emphasis to Russian history since the Communists took over.

32. Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture—education, social agencies, welfare programs, mental health clinics, etc.

38. Transfer some of the powers of arrest from the police to social agencies. Treat all behavioral problems as psychiatric disorders which no one but psychiatrists can understand [or treat].

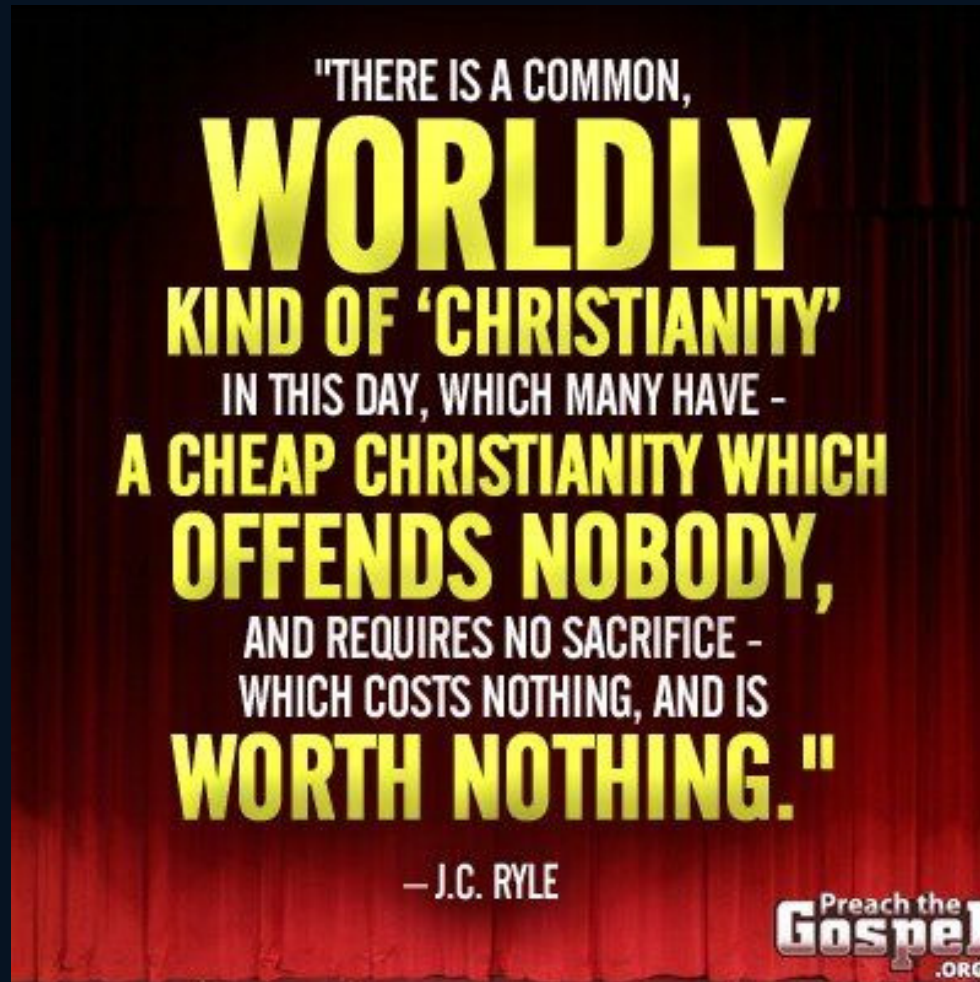
40. Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.

41. Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents. Attribute prejudices, mental blocks and retarding of children to suppressive influence of parents.

42. Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use [“]united force[“] to solve economic, political or social problems.

In Church

1 Pet. 4:17 For **the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God**: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/572097958909217151/>

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**

2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away.

- Too many churches today resemble worldliness more than godliness.

Of the Family

- Perhaps the greatest failing of all is the demise of the *FAMILY!*
- The first institution found in the Bible is the family: Gen. 1:26-28

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

III. THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

2 Chron. 7:13 **If I shut up heaven** that there be no rain, or **if I command the locusts** to devour the land, or **if I send pestilence** among my people;

14 **If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ...

17 And as for thee, **if** thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

18 **Then** will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.

The Choices

Psa. 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* **all the nations that forget God.**

Psa. 33:12 **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;** *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Rom. 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, **live peaceably with all men.**

1 Tim. 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;
2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and honesty.

“A scared world needs a fearless church.”

– A W Tozer

<https://fearlesschristianity.com>

REPENTANCE FROM THE WORLD OF GODLESSNESS

2 Chron. 7:17 And as for thee, **if** thou wilt **walk before me**, as David thy father walked, and **do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;**

18 **Then** will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Jn. 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, **but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: **therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

RESPECT FOR THE WORD OF GOD

2 Chron. 7:17 And as for thee, **if** thou wilt **walk before me**, as David thy father walked, and **do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;**

Josh. 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest **observe to do according to all that is written therein**: for **then** thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

RETURN TO THE ONE WORTHY TO GLORIFY

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**.

5 **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- Recognize the Problem – “...thou hast left thy first love.”
- Remember the Passion – “**Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen...”
- Repent from Perversity – “...**repent**, and do the first works...”
- Removal is a Possibility – “...or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place...”

Conclusion

Phil. 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, **in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**
16 **Holding forth the word of life;** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.